

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 and amended the drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims and the drawings are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims and drawings as amended.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, stating that the drawings do not show that the gears are made of plastic. Submitted herewith are new drawings indicating that Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are made from plastic material. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3 and 4 now comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are made merely for the purpose of clarifying the language therein, as required by the Examiner, and do not raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Mabuchi et al., stating that Mabuchi et al. discloses all features of the present invention as claimed.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to first point out that the characteristic feature of Applicant's invention is that the end 8a of the surface (front) side of each of the blades 8 that are inclined is located on an extension of the corresponding diametrical rib 6; and from this end 8a, the blade 8 is shaped so as to extend obliquely in the direction toward the back surface. In other words, the surface of the surface (front) side end 8a of the blade 8 and the surface of the diametrical rib 6 are located on the same plane, as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Mabuchi et al. and respectfully submits that Mabuchi et al. does not disclose such a construction. In addition, while the Examiner states that "injection molding" is merely a method limitation which carries no weight, Applicant respectfully submits that it is an advantage of Applicant's invention over Mabuchi et al. that Applicant's invention allows injection molded gears entirely from plastic to be fabricated reliably by allowing the plastic material to flow smoothly and not cause a molding failure (see Figs. 1 and 2 and page 7,

4th line from the bottom to page 8, line 1). Applicant respectfully submits that the construction of Mabuchi et al. does not show or suggest this advantage.

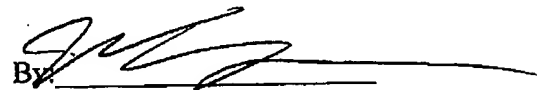
In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Mabuchi does not show each and every element of Applicant's invention and claims 1-6 are not anticipated thereby.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Rule 116 Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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